

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Notice of Allowability mailed on March 8, 2004. Applicants have amended the first paragraph of the specification to correct various typographical errors. These typographical errors were discovered only upon Applicants' final review of the specification and after receiving the Notice of Allowability.

Applicants' Declaration, submitted on June 6, 2002 during prosecution of the U.S. national phase, clearly and unambiguously indicates a benefit claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) only to a provisional application bearing Serial No. 60/131,955, filed on April 30, 1999. This benefit claim is reflected on Applicants' Filing Receipt. The priority data submitted to the U.S. Receiving Office at the time of filing the parent PCT application (Application No. PCT/US00/11620) reflects a benefit claim only to the provisional application bearing Serial No. 60/131,955. This benefit claim is apparent on the front page of Applicants' published PCT application. Applicants did not assert nor did the Examiner recognize a contrary benefit claim. Hence, the amendments to the first paragraph of the specification are not intended to change Applicants' benefit claim but, instead, are intended to correct typographical errors made by the Applicants.

Applicants believe that the amendment correcting the typographical errors in the specification will require no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In particular, Applicants submit that consideration of the amendment requires no further substantive examination. Hence, Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment.

Applicants do not believe fees are dues in connection with filing this communication. In the event that any issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative. If, however, additional fees are necessary as a result of this communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any under-payment or fees associated with this communication or credit any over-payment to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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